

Anniston, Alabama

February 23, 2020

The City Council of the City of Anniston, Alabama, met in Special Session in Room B of the Anniston City Meeting Center in the City of Anniston, Alabama, on Sunday, February 23, 2020, at approximately 10:05 o'clock a.m.

Chris Collins, Fire Chief, prayed the Invocation.

Chris Collins, Fire Chief, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Draper called the meeting to order. On call of the roll, the following Council Members were found to be present: Council Members Jenkins, Little, Harris, and Draper, absent: Council Member Reddick. A quorum was present and the meeting opened for the transaction of business.

Steven Folks, City Manager, was present.

Bruce Downey, City Attorney, was present.

Mayor Draper stated yesterday they received an email from the Regional Director of FEMA informing them that it was decided by the federal government that some patients who had been diagnosed with the coronavirus would be transported from a nondisclosed location to the CDP in Anniston. These are patients that tested positive that were evacuated from the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship in Japan. He stated that they know little more than that. He stated that they were informed in the email that the patients were exhibiting at the time no symptoms or mild flu-like symptoms; and no addition information was provided with respect to potential care or how they would transported to Anniston.

Mayor Draper suggested rewording the resolution from Authorizing Immediate legal action to enjoin the transportation and quarantine of persons infected with the coronavirus disease, COVID-19, within the City of Anniston to a more appropriate wording to read as follows, Authorizing the City Attorney to draft a petition, that could ultimately be necessary, but that the City Council refrain from taking any legal action at this point until the City Council meets with Federal Officials coming today at 12.

Mayor Draper made a motion to adopt the agenda with the amended resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Little, Harris, and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the agenda was adopted with the amended resolution.

Mayor Draper made a motion to authorize the city attorney and the city manager to seek legal counsel with respect to all options they may have at this point but not to specifically authorize any immediate filing, that pending the series of meetings they are likely to have this afternoon, that in the event that it is determined based upon the information they develop, legal action opt be taken that they have a second meeting specifically to authorize that legal action. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris.

Council Member Harris stated that while her heart goes out to these fellow Americans who are infected with this terrible virus at no fault of their own, there are so many unknowns to this. She asked are there not any less populated locations for this to be housed and will this set a precedence for the future. She stated that her primary concern is for the health of this community.

Council Member Little stated that he understands the fear that he received addressing the issue. He stated that having the potential virus is bad enough. He stated even addressing the fears, he hopes this community puts a welcome sign out and not they agree with the situation but the fact that they are human. He stated that the media showed go through the steps if they do come. He stated that his vote would be no.

Council Member Jenkins stated that he is scared of what it can do but in spite of that he cannot quit hearing Matthew 25:40 in his head. He stated that these people are victims and it is a most unfortunate situation. He stated that years ago they celebrated when the CDP was located in Anniston and even though they benefit from it, there is a price. He stated that they should be proactive but they do not have all the information at hand.

Mayor Draper stated that the resolution on the table is simply to authorize the city attorney to draft something to explore all legal options but not authorizing filing of anything at this time pending additional information they receive from Senator Shelby's office, Health and Human Services and potentially FEMA.

Council Member Little stated that these are the times that try men's souls and it not easy. He stated that the community should be more informed. He stated that the nation needs Alabama, the nation needs Calhoun County, and the nation needs Anniston, Alabama.

And on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Harris, and Draper; nays: Council Member Little. The motion carried and the resolution was passed and adopted.

There being no further business to come before the council at that time Mayor Draper made a motion the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris; and on call of the roll, the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Little, Harris and Draper nays: none. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:25 o'clock a.m.